



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,610	02/27/2004	Jon Washington	D-1206	9198
28995	7590	12/02/2004	EXAMINER PAIK, STEVE S	
RALPH E. JOCKE 231 SOUTH BROADWAY MEDINA, OH 44256			ART UNIT 2876	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,610

Applicant(s)

WASHINGTON ET AL.

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed February 27, 2004. The Amendment includes cancelled claims 2-44, amended claim 1, and newly added claims 45-60.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 56-60 are objected to because of the following informalities: the word, "generally" appears to be indefinite. It is respectfully suggested to recite the claimed invention with more descriptive and definite limitations. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 45-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Black et al. (US 6,786,354) in view of Youn (US 6,592,118).

Black et al. disclose a cassette (10) for storing media in sheet form. The cassette (10) has urging means (26) for urging a stack of media items (34) to one end (24) of the cassette (10), such as a media pick area (22). The cassette (10) also has sensing means (52) for determining the size of the stack of media items (34) remaining in the cassette (10). The cassette (10) includes display means (50; LED circuit 52 is in electrical connection with the pusher plate 26)

Art Unit: 2876

for displaying to an external viewer, such as a replenisher, an indication of the size of the stack of media items (34) remaining within the cassette (10).

Black is silent about a media-low lockout arrangement as recited in the present application.

Youn discloses a media cassette for an automatic dispenser which can be used easily and solve problems of incorrect operations when a push plate is locked since if the automatic dispenser receives the cassette having a locked push plate, locking is automatically released. The media cassette for an automatic dispenser includes a cassette body having a certain interior space in which media is received, a push plate installed slidably in the cassette body for supporting media, an elastic member positioned between the push plate and the cassette body for urging the push plate, guide members installed between the both sides surfaces of the push plate and the inner sides of the cassette body for guiding the push plate to perform linear movement and a locking mechanism installed between the push plate and the cassette body for locking the push plate and releasing the locking of the push plate in case the media cassette is received in the automatic dispenser. The automatic locking and releasing of the pusher plate during insertion and removal of the media cassette ensures secure holding of media stored therein.

In view of Youn's teaching, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ an automatic locking mechanism of a push plate in a media cassette for an ATM in addition to the media cassette of Black et al. since the automatic locking and unlocking of the pusher plate ensure the media stored within the media securely kept during insertion, removal and transportation of the cassette.

Re claim 45, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically lock the indicator device in a non-indicating condition (When the ATM is open, a roller shutter 36 is closed so that the cassette may be removed from the ATM. A pusher plate is in a fixed position to secure the media within the cassette.).

Re claim 46, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically place the indicator device in an unlocked condition (col. 3, ll. 1-22).

Re claim 47, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 46 stated above, wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically place the indicator device in an unlocked condition during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine (col. 3, ll. 1-22 and col. 4, ll. 6-11 and col. 6, ll. 7-23 of Youn).

Re claim 48, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 47 stated above, wherein the cassette comprises a door (a roller shutter 36) wherein the door is operative to move during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine, and wherein the indicator device is placed in an unlocked condition responsive to the door movement (col. 3, ll. 7-22).

Re claim 49, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 48 stated above, wherein the door comprises a tambour door (a roller shutter 36).

Re claim 50, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 46 stated above, wherein the cassette comprises a lid (12), and wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically place the indicator device (LED circuit in electrical

Art Unit: 2876

connection with the pusher plate 26) in an unlocked condition (when the cassette is removed from an ATM) during opening of the lid.

Re claim 51, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically place the indicator device in an locked condition during removal of the cassette into an automated banking machine (col. 3, ll. 1-22 and col. 4, ll. 6-11 and col. 6, ll. 7-23 of Youn).

Re claim 52, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 51 stated above, wherein the cassette comprises a door (a roller shutter 36) wherein the door is operative to move during removal of the cassette from an automated banking machine, and wherein the indicator device is placed in a locked condition responsive to the door movement (col. 3, ll. 7-22).

Re claim 53, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 52 stated above, wherein the door comprises a tambour door (a roller shutter 36).

Re claim 54, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the cassette comprises a lid (12), and wherein the arrangement is operative to automatically place the indicator device (LED circuit in electrical connection with the pusher plate 26) in a locked condition (when the cassette is inserted into an ATM) during closing of the lid.

Re claim 55, Black et al. in view of Youn disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the locking arrangement (pusher plate is in a fixed position) maintains the indicator device in a locked condition during transport.

Method claims 56 and 60 are essentially the same in scope as apparatus claim 1 and are rejected similarly.

Method claim 57 is essentially the same in scope as apparatus claim 50 and is rejected similarly.

Method claim 58 is essentially the same in scope as apparatus claim 54 and is rejected similarly.

Method claim 59 is essentially the same in scope as apparatus claim 48 and is rejected similarly.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Graef et al. (US 5,141,127) discloses a canister having plurality of buttons reflecting electrical conditions of switches.

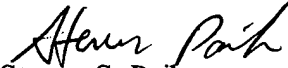
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2876

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp